

Appln No. 09/909,353

Amdt date December 5, 2003

Reply to Office action of September 26, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A knife sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives, comprising:

a base portion having an elongate guide rail [having] with a top surface at a first level, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of a knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail, and a handle support for engaging a handle of the knife; and

a sharpening implement which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The knife sharpening system of claim [2]1, wherein the handle support has a relief for receiving a handle of the knife.

which contacts and is guided on the guide rail for movement relative to the blade

4. (Currently Amended) The knife sharpening system of claim [2]1, wherein the handle support has a peg for engagement with a peg receiving aperture in a handle of the knife.

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5. (Original) The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the base portion has a blade platform upon which the blade of the knife will sit.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~[The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the base portion has two guide rails and]~~ A knife sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives, comprising:

a base portion having two elongate guide rails, each with a top surface at a first level, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of the knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail, and wherein the knife support means will support [a] the knife in two, flipped over, orientations; and

a sharpening implement which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~[The knife sharpening system of claim 1,]~~ A knife sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives, comprising:

a base portion having an elongate guide rail with a top surface at a first level, wherein the guide rail is curved to match a curved knife [for] which the knife sharpening system is used to sharpen, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of the knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by

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a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail; and

a sharpening implement which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.

8. (Original) The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the sharpening implement is a sharpening stone.

9. (Original) The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the sharpening implement sits on the blade at a predetermined sharpening angle.

10. (Currently Amended) A knife sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives, comprising:

at least one knife having a predetermined handle and blade size, shape, and blade edge angle;

a base portion having an elongate guide rail having a top surface at a first level, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of the knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail, and a handle support for engaging a handle of the knife;

and a sharpening implement which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.

11. (Canceled)

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12. (Currently Amended) The knife sharpening system of claim ~~[11]~~10, wherein the handle support has a relief for receiving the handle of the knife.

13. (Currently Amended) The knife sharpening system of claim ~~[11]~~10, wherein the knife has an aperture formed in its handle, and the base portion has a peg for engagement with the aperture.

14. (Original) The knife sharpening system of claim 10, wherein the base portion has a blade platform upon which the blade of the knife will sit.

15. (Original) The knife sharpening system of claim 10, wherein the base portion has two guide rails and the knife support means will support a knife in two, flipped over, orientations.

16. (Canceled)